

HOUSE RESOLUTION 34  
By Godsey

A RESOLUTION to honor Mr. C. M. "Bill" Gatton of Kingsport on receiving the 2005 *Time* Magazine Quality Dealer Award.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who, in their years of work, have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Carol Martin "Bill" Gatton, President of Bill Gatton Chevrolet-Cadillac-Isuzu, is one such estimable person who has served with dedication and probity for 45 years in the field of automobile sales; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gatton's outstanding abilities were recently recognized when he was named a recipient of the 2005 *TIME* Magazine Quality Dealer Award; and

WHEREAS, the award is sponsored by *TIME* in association with the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, and in cooperation with National Automobile Dealers Association, the award program recognizes outstanding new car dealers for exceptional dealership performance and distinguished community service; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of the University of Kentucky and the University of Pennsylvania's prestigious Wharton School of Business, Mr. Gatton began his professional career in automobile sales in 1959; and

WHEREAS, relying on a \$25,000 loan from his father, who Mr. Gatton says predicted "that I would be broke in six months and back on the farm where I belonged," and on his own will to succeed, he was awarded a dealer franchise and became the youngest Volkswagen dealer in America; and

WHEREAS, rather than returning to the farm as predicted, Mr. Gatton became a brilliant and successful businessman, and has provided returns both within and beyond the confines of his community in the form of his extensive philanthropy; and

WHEREAS, he is a dedicated member and an integral part of the Kingsport community; The Bill Gatton Foundation, established in 1985, has provided over \$20 million in support to various colleges, the Boys Club, the Salvation Army, and the Mayo Clinic, in addition to providing college scholarships to many deserving students; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his unwavering commitment to the University of Kentucky, the University's College of Business and Economics now bears his name; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Gatton has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate others to reach their potential, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his industry peers and fellow community members alike; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gatton exemplifies the spirit of allegiance to community that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; his dedication to his profession and to the good people of the states of Tennessee and Kentucky is unparalleled; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and commend Mr. C. M. "Bill" Gatton of Kingsport on his outstanding career, on his far-reaching philanthropy, and on being named a recipient of the 2005 *TIME* Magazine Quality Dealer Award.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.